



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



February 2001

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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WISCONSIN, Southeast

Racine County

Burlington to
Racine

09 0428CST 0 0 30K Lightning

Lightning struck a power substation in Burlington (Racine Co.), and Racine (Racine Co.), resulting in power outages from Burlington east to Racine, as well as across the western one-third of Kenosha County. About 2350 customers lost power for about 5.5 hours.

Synoptically, a strong low pressure moved from the southern Rockies through the southern plains and then through Minnesota on Feb 9th. Ahead of the low, southerly winds pulled warm, moist air into southern Wisconsin, as temperatures maxed out in the 35 to 48 degree range. Thunderstorms and cloud-to-ground lightning were reported across southeastern Wisconsin

WIZ057>060-063>066-
068>072

Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

09 0600CST 0 0 325K Flood
10 1200CST

Heavy rains, in some cases, setting new daily records across south-central and southeast Wisconsin, resulted in most rivers reaching or exceeding flood stage. Thunderstorms and cloud-to-ground lightning were reported across the southeastern counties. In addition, the heavy rains and partial snow melt of a 7 to 12 inch snow pack led to widespread flooding of farm fields, road side ditches, and other low spots. Consequently, water covered or flowed across many roads. Backed-up sewers and ice-jamming/damming made the situation worse in Milwaukee and Ozaukee Counties where water backed up into many basements and backyards. For the calendar day of the 9th, Milwaukee Mitchell Field measured 1.09 inches, breaking the old record of .83 inches. Likewise, Madison's Truax Field (Dane Co.) set a new daily record of 1.29 inches. The 2-day total for the 8th and 9th came to 1.75 inches in Madison and 2.33 inches in Milwaukee. In Waterford (Racine Co.), the 2-day total was 2.48 inches.

Commuting times for workers during the morning hours of the 9th were substantially increased and dozens of schools were closed. The heavy rains damaged an electrical substation insulator that caused power failures in Burlington (Racine Co.), Greenfield (Milwaukee Co.), and Memomonee Falls (Waukesha Co.). About 1100 customers were without power for several hours. During the afternoon hours of the 9th, colder air pushed in, changing the rain to freezing rain and then snow. Gustly northwest winds to 30 mph resulted in blowing snow and reduced visibilities. Many icy patches developed on water-covered roads, resulting in at least 400 vehicle accidents. About a dozen people were treated for injuries in area hospitals (indirect injuries).

Mainstream flooding was the worst along the Fox River in Kenosha County, and the Root River Canal near Raymond in Racine County. The Fox River near New Munster (Kenosha Co.) went above its 10 foot flood stage at 0800CST on the 9th and remained above flood stage until 1230CST on Feb 24th. It crested at 11.92 feet at 0500CST on Feb 16th. The Root River Canal near Raymond went above its 9 foot flood stage at 0600CST on the 9th and remained above flood stage until 0300CST on Feb 12th. It crested at 11.11 feet at 1015CST on Feb 10th. Once again, many homes along these rivers had water in their basements as well as backyards, etc.

Synoptically, a strong low pressure moved from the southern Rockies through the southern plains and then through Minnesota on Feb 9th. Ahead of the low, southerly winds pulled warm, moist air into southern Wisconsin, as temperatures maxed out in the 35 to 48 degree range.



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Location	Date	Time	Path	Path	Number of		Estimated		Character of Storm
		Local/ Standard	Length (Miles)	Width (Yards)	Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ062-067>068

Iowa - Lafayette - Green

24 1900CST
25 0200CST

0 0

Fog

Moist southeast winds and recent snow melt combined to develop dense fog across south-central Wisconsin. Visibilities were reduced to 1/8 to 1/4 mile, resulting in about a dozen vehicle accidents. On the weather map, a warm front was moving north through northern Illinois.

WIZ046>047-051>052-

Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Dane - Jefferson

056>060-063>066-069>072 - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

24 2130CST
25 0200CST

0 0

Fog

Moist southeast winds and recent snow melt combined to develop dense fog across south-central and southeast Wisconsin. Visibilities were reduced to 1/8 to 1/4 mile, resulting in about 100 vehicle accidents, and delays in dozens of flight arrivals and departures at airports. On the weather map, a warm front was moving north through northern Illinois.

WIZ066-068

Milwaukee - Green

25 0800CST
1000CST

0 0

82K

High Wind

High winds, gusting to around 60 mph out of the southwest, raked Milwaukee and Green Counties. Peak gusts of 60 mph were measured at a couple commercial TV stations in Milwaukee County (and at couple schools in their weather networks). In addition, a peak gust of 58 mph was measured at Milwaukee Mitchell Field. Several large trees and power lines were toppled in Milwaukee County. In Green County, the powerful winds got underneath and lifted the rubber roof of a City of Monticello administrative building. The roof was partially damaged, and several nearby large trees were toppled.

Elsewhere across south-central and southeast Wisconsin, peak wind gusts of 40 to 55 mph were noted during the period of 0500CST through 1000CST. There were numerous reports of small tree branches knocked out of trees. These strong southwest winds were associated with a deep low pressure which moved northeast through Minnesota through northwestern Wisconsin to Lake Superior.